

ABSTRACT

DISSERTATION: Recovering Adrián del Valle's *Por el camino* and Building Transnational Multitudinous Communities

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This dissertation is a recovery project, and as such it introduces Adrián del Valle, a prolific Spanish-born literary *modernista* and anarchist activist who dedicated his life to social reform in in turn-of-the-century Cuba and beyond. In addition to a critical introduction, this project includes my translation of his 1907 collection of integrated short stories *Por el camino* [*Along the Way*], which, as all of his works, is long out of print. *Por el camino* complicates critical models grounded in nationality and therefore invites us to construct and apply an alternative model better suited to handling a transnational epistemology of space, which allows for the constant flow of people, ideas, and texts, as well as commercial and political influences, across borders. In developing this epistemological framework, I blend two theoretical concepts—"multitude" and "imagined communities"—to situate del Valle in his dynamic historical moment. Del Valle wrote *Por el camino* in the throes of the Second Industrial Revolution, the Age of Synergy, which I argue can be understood as an early age of globalization. *Por el camino* also stands at the crossroads of Latin American *modernista* short fiction and the international anarchist movement, thus challenging critical positions that treat *modernismo* as an apolitical and socially apathetic literary movement obsessed with elitist aesthetics and escapism and anarchism as a mutually exclusive movement wholly concerned with achieving practical social and political

reforms. Through my reading of del Valle's work, I demonstrate that *modernismo* and anarchism are two manifold and simultaneous responses to the complex socio-political, economic, cultural, and spiritual crises that grew out of Latin America's transition into modernity.